

Application No. 09/700,704
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Kornakov for allowing Claims 1, 3, 4, 19, 22 and 23 and for indicating allowability of Claim 12 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the limitations of Claim 12 have been included in Claim 7.

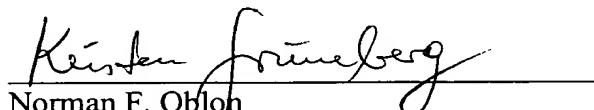
New Claims 24-27 have been added as supported by Claims 23, 3, 4 and 19 as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the **Information Disclosure Statement**, filed in the above-identified application on **May 24, 2002**, have been considered. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on May 24, 2002, is attached herewith.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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